



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Issue # 9

10th November 2025

Dear Families,

It was an absolute pleasure to see so many of you at parent's evening last week, it was wonderful to share and celebrate the hard work, progress, and achievements of the children. Your continued support makes such a difference in helping them to thrive under our care!

Later this week, we will be holding a remembrance service in school, providing time for reflection and gratitude as we give thanks to those who have served and sacrificed for others. In addition, a group of our pupils will represent Axbridge C of E Academy at the Wessex Learning Trust remembrance service, honouring those from our local Axbridge community who gave their lives in service. We will also be marking Children in Need on Friday, with children invited to wear multi-clothing and for any donations to be made online.

We wish our year 1s the best of luck on their trip to King John's Hunting Lodge on Thursday, as they discover more about the history of our fantastic town. They will also be.....

Finally, a reminder that tonight we are holding a PTA meeting at the Oakhouse, starting at 7pm - all are welcome! The PTA are also running their ever popular quiz night this Friday, with two school teams to try and topple this year! Come along and join us, have some fun and help raise some funds for the school at the same!

With warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

RESPECT

Tomorrow, our children will come together to share their respects during our school Remembrance Service. We are also incredibly proud of the children who represented Axbridge C of E Academy so beautifully in community events held over the weekend. You truly demonstrated a wonderful 'Respect' for others.



November

Monday 10th - PTA meeting at the Oakhouse 7pm

Monday 10th - IMAGO photography taking individual photos

Thursday 13th - Year 1 visit Axbridge Museum

Friday 14th - **Children in Need**

Friday 14th - *PTA Quiz Night in the school hall*

Tuesday 18th - Vision Screening Test for Reception pupils

Wednesday 19th - Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves

Friday 21st - The Greatest Robot Ever Theatre Performance, 1:45pm

Friday 21st - PTA Film Night

Monday 24th - Year 1 visit the Church

Friday 28th @ 9am - Church Service - everyone is welcome

December

Wednesday 3rd @ 2pm - Early Years Nativity

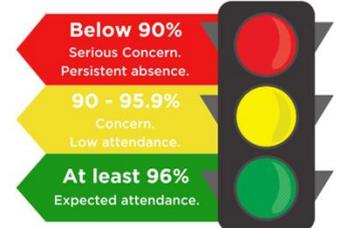
Thursday 4th @ 10.15am - Early Years Nativity

Tuesday 9th - PTA Film Night

Friday 12th @ 3.30 to 5pm - PTA Xmas Fair

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

Attendance was **96.6%** last week.

Our Christian Values are:
Community
Courage
Love

Our Christian Vision is;
"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"
John 10:10

Our Learning Skills are:
Thinking
Social
Self-management
Communication
Research

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Laila	Edith	Mollie	Isaac	Sophia
Christian Values	Artemus	Cara	Saxon	Aidan	India
Learning Skills	Reggie	Zach	Ethan	Finn	William

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Remy C Oak	Christian Values	Aria P Pine	Learning Skills	Leonie M Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	247	212	217	212



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



COMMUNITY



COURAGE



LOVE

Community

"Bear each other's burdens.."
– Galatians 6:2

This term, we are continuing to celebrate our Christian value of **Community**, the idea that we are stronger when we stand together and support one another. This is bought to life by the passage from Galatians 6:2, "Bear each other's burdens.." and already the children have enjoyed thinking about how they can support others.

This term, as a school family, we will be living out the idea of Community through our partnership with the **School in a Bag** charity who visited the school last week. Our School Council have taken on the role of courageous advocates for this charity, having chosen them as the charity they wanted to champion this year. The school council want every child and family in the school to recognise how their actions can make a difference and how, by working together, we can help others around the world to have a better start in life. In fact, they will soon be releasing details of a school wide competition to help start raising funds to go towards the first bag that will help change a child's life!

We will also be exploring the value of **Generosity** this term, a particularly meaningful theme at this time of year, as we consider how giving, kindness and selflessness can bring light and hope to others.

Together, we continue to build a community where kindness, courage and love shine through in all that we do, where we support each other to lead 'a life in all its fullness'.



Bear each other's burdens ...

Galatians 6:2

Personal recommendations make such a difference, and we'd love more families to discover what makes **Axbridge C of E Academy** such a special place to learn, grow and flourish. If you've had a positive experience with our school, whether it's the warm welcome, your child's experiences or the wonderful sense of community you feel, please do **spread the word!**



Axbridge
C of E Academy

www.axbridgefirstschool.co.uk



OPEN AUTUMN 2025-26

We believe that every day is special at Axbridge, so we don't offer open days like other schools. Instead, we invite you to join us for our 'Open Autumn', where you can enjoy a tour of the school with the headteacher at a time that is convenient for you and your family. You'll have the chance to meet our inspiring teachers, enjoy the joyous atmosphere and see our wonderful children who make our school so special. Email or phone the office to book in a date. We look forward to hearing from you!

ABOUT US

'Rooted in Community: Growing in Excellence'

- We provide a safe, nurturing, and aspirational environment where all children thrive and flourish.
- We offer a wide range of clubs, events, experiences and visits, allowing all children the space to discover and explore their passions in life.
- Five straight year group classes for ages 4-9 and a welcoming Nursery for ages 2-4.
- Follow us on Facebook to see what an incredible start in life looks like



STARTS
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SEP

Contact Us

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Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

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Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together!

Axbridge PTA presents....

Quiz Night

Friday 14th November
7.30pm start
School Hall
£5pp (max 8 in a team)
Ticket includes cheese & biscuits

BYO Booze & remember to takeaway your empties

A FUN, INTERACTIVE QUIZ THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE YOU TO BE A BRAIN OF BRITAIN!

Email pta@axbridgefirstschool.co.uk with team details

Where classroom meets countryside
Bringing the National Curriculum to life

ALLERTON ALPACAS

www.allertonalpacas.co.uk

Axbridge C of E Academy

CHILDREN IN NEED THIS FRIDAY

Children will join Joe Wicks in a special collective worship

Invited to wear mufti clothing for a donation

Please donate online at <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

In Touch

in Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow Benefice & Crook Peak Parish
Sunday 9 November
Remembrance / 3 before Advent

Remembrance / 3 before Advent		
0945	SHIPHAM	Short Holy Communion
1000	WEARE	Service of Remembrance
1050	SHIPHAM	Service of Remembrance on the Green
1050	AXBRIDGE	Service of Remembrance on the Church Steps
1600	ROWBERROW	Service of Remembrance

Please note there are no services at Christon or Shipham this evening

Taking place this week

Monday 10 November

- 1100 Axbridge Warm Spot, Church Rooms (ends 1300)
- 1700 Crook Peak Special Choir Practice, Badgworth (ends 1830)
- 1930 ASR Homegroup, Pam's, 2 Beech Road, Shipham (ends 2100)

Tuesday 11 November

- 1930 CP Homegroup, Crooklands, Old Coach Rd, Cross (ends 2115)

Wednesday 12 November

- 2000 Christian Meditation Group, Axbridge Church

Thursday 13 November

- 0900 Crook Peak online morning prayer:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-1258H/service-and-events/>
- 1100 Advent Course, Cesca's, 64 Houlgate Way (1/6)

Friday 14 November

- 1100 Lenny's Community Café, Shipham Church (ends 1400)

There is no ASR Choir Practice tonight

A: Axbridge C of E Academy, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2BA

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Wessex Learning Trust
We Learn Together!

Axbridge Sports & Social Club Present



SANTA IN THE SQUARE

20TH DECEMBER 2025 - FROM 4PM

Santa arrives at 5pm

Pig Roast, BBQ, Mulled Wine, Carols,
Live Music, Childrens Entertainment

Register by e-mail: santainthesquare@gmail.com

Wake Up Wednesday Guide for Parents - Fortnite

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like *The Witcher* and *Halo*.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like *Power Rangers* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, to comic book characters including *Batman*. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

